

City Light Advisory Board
Meeting Summary
October 14, 2003, 8:30 am – 11:30 pm
Conference Room 4070, Key Tower

Board members: Jay Lapin, Carol Arnold, Donald Wise, Sara Patton, Maura O'Neill, Randy Hardy

Also present: Andrew Lofton (Mayor's Office), Carol Butler (Legislative Central Staff), Jim Ritch, Superintendent, Dana Backiel, Bob Royer (City Light), Julie Tobin (Office of Policy & Management)

Superintendent hiring process update

The recruiter is still recruiting candidates. Andrew Lofton confirmed that the availability of a severance package should be used as a recruiting tool. Regarding the Seattle Times article on the hiring process, the Board expressed concern that the public debate on the hiring process did not escalate and affect recruitment. Board expects to meet with the final three candidates in November.

Outreach meeting status

- Natalie Kominsky, Local 17 with Carol Arnold and Sara Patton – Complete
- Vulcan with Maura O'Neill and Don Wise - Complete
- Boeing (Keith Warner or his Deputy) with Carol Arnold and Jay Lapin. Delayed until later in the year
- Local 77 – Carol Arnold will set up
- SCL Leadership Group meeting on September 24. Attending Sara Patton, Maura O'Neill, Don Wise and Carol Arnold.

The Board received some excellent questions from the group. Carol Arnold agreed to put together comments from the meeting to share with the Board. Jim Ritch invited the Board to attend future meetings. Carol Arnold will coordinate the Board's presence with the Superintendent's office.

Carol Arnold will provide the Board members with a summary of feedback gained from all the outreach meetings to date.

Superintendent's report

Jim Ritch distributed "The Light Report" (the Superintendent's monthly report to Seattle City Council) and gave a brief overview of the contents. Bob Royer will ensure that SCL newsletters are e-mailed to Board members directly. The "Light Report" can also be found on line at <http://sclweb/superintendent/lightreport/>.

Request for Advice

Jim Ritch handed out the power/risk management resolution recently passed by the City Council. The resolution, developed as a result of the power marketing workshops, requests that SCL complete a four step work program before City Council will consider authorizing SCL's use of financial hedges. Each work program item has a due date to report to Council starting with a short status report by October 31, 2003. Jim asked the Advisory Board to provide input on the work program items developed by SCL before they go to City Council. It was agreed that the October 31 report should include some information on how the Advisory Board can participate in this process. Jim asked that the Board focus on sections one and two of the resolution. Given that this is the first request the Board has received the members agreed to make sure their input is timely. The power management/marketing working group will meet with SCL staff in November to focus on

and further research the issues. The working group will review and provide input on SCL document drafts prior to presentation of final drafts to the full board. Carol Butler agreed to report back to the City Council that the Board is providing input to the SCL process.

Financial strategy, policies and conditions working group update

(Maura O'Neill, Don Wise, Jay Lapin)

Jay gave a status report. It was suggested that the Board needed to find a balance between projects for improving the financial condition and operating performance of the utility that get relatively quick results and those projects that outlive the three year membership of the Board. The working group will meet in the afternoon to further discuss the issues.

Power management/marketing working group update (Carol Arnold, Sara Patton, Randy Hardy)

Carol gave an update. The working group will be meeting with SCL staff on November 4 to focus on a specific set of questions. Jim Ritch will invite the appropriate SCL staff to the meeting and Sarah will e-mail out list of draft issues to the Board.

The two working groups will continue to meet separately and refine their recommendations and bring them to the November Board meeting with the goal of fitting both sets of issues together into the broader report.

Other

Jay asked Julie to do some benchmarking on municipally owned utilities to identify firms that operate to some extent outside the standard budgetary controls, personnel systems and other elements of their City governments.